



Catalyst for Cats

A Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Altering the Future for Ferals

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 30331 • Santa Barbara, CA 93130 • Phone: (805) 685-1563 • Email: catalyst4cats@cox.net

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Our Mission:

As a feral cat organization our primary purpose is to spay and neuter feral and abandoned cats, and to socialize and find homes for rescued kittens. These services are designed to address the feline overpopulation problem and to prevent cruelty to animals by preventing the birth of unwanted and uncared for cats and kittens. Catalyst for Cats, PO Box 30331, Santa Barbara, CA 93130 is a free newsletter published four times a year by Catalyst for Cats, Inc.

From the Founder

A stable colony is a successful colony

What does it mean when we say a colony is “stabilized? We mean the cats in the colony have been “fixed” and are no longer able to breed. The publication *Animal People* states the following regarding neuter/return results: “If a neuter/return project achieves sterilization of all female cats in a colony within a single breeding cycle, the kitten birth rate will drop to zero, and in the 1991–92 *Animal People* project, which emphasized quick and total capture of all cats, it usually did. But most neuter/return projects do not succeed in rapidly sterilizing every female cat in a colony.”

Catalyst for Cats understands this concept, and we try to communicate it to those we assist. The colony needs to be kept stabilized, and we educate feeders about proper feeding and keeping track of a colony’s population. Stabilized colonies tend to keep newcomers at bay and will over time die out through attrition.

A small colony is relatively easy to stabilize, but as it grows it becomes increasingly difficult and expensive. We have stabilized many colonies of over 20 cats and even some over 30.

Research of our records shows that on average we stabilized over one colony per week over the last three years. I think that’s a remarkable record our volunteers can take pride in.

Stabilizing a colony rewards everyone involved. Best of all, there are no more unwanted kittens to socialize and find “forever homes” for, and the remaining cats begin to thrive in appearance.

Presently we are hard at work gearing up for another successful season. Last year we adopted out about 100 kittens—almost all saved from a life on the streets—and were able to TNR over 500 felines. In addition, we helped save lives and relieve suffering for dozens of cats through our Tiny Tim Fund.

We are both fortunate and thankful for our supporters who enable us to do this work. Your donations go directly and entirely to addressing the feline overpopulation problem at the core level. We hope for

your continued support in our effort to make every cat a wanted cat.

Randi Fairbrother



Two of a Kind: *These siblings, trapped in a trailer park, were adopted together. Catalyst volunteer Tim Olivera, with the help of Monica Gonzalez, socialized them enough to be adopted, and they are reportedly quite happy to be in a loving home. Their mother was trapped, spayed and returned.*

In Appreciation

Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization. They are absolutely essential to our work, and we applaud and thank them for the hours and hours spent away from their families and for the personal sacrifice dedicated to *Catalyst for Cats*. It is indeed a labor of love.

Kia Becket, our Valley assistant – for help with the transportation of Santa Maria cats to the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society.

Barbara Hilaire – for her unwavering and generous support of our TNR program.

Marci Kladnik continues her popular bi-monthly columns printed in the Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Ynez Valley newspapers. She is gathering quite a following.

Reisa and David, our faithful Carpinteria volunteers – for their faithful donations of food, supplies and kind words.

Maureen Lynch – for her generous contribution of

food for the Santa Ynez Valley ferals.

Debbie Merry, our star trapper in Santa Maria.

Melissa Muñoz, age 18, has proven to be a dedicated feeder, all-around volunteer and does a great job trapping.

Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society – for the 49 surgeries they did for us in the month of January (21 females and 28 males).

Kyle and Nathan – for donating food because they wanted to make sure kittens had enough.

Lemos Feed and Pet Supply – for offering customers countywide an opportunity during the month of December to donate supplies to *Catalyst for Cats* at a 20% discount. We were thrilled with the response. We received several bags of litter and lots of toys. What a happy delivery for us. Thank you to those who participated.

And finally, we thank the **dozens of feeders** who faithfully feed colonies throughout Santa Barbara County.

Tributes & Memorials

Each one of these names represents a level of love and caring to those remaining. They each have their own story.

In Honor of:

Victoria Blunt – by Michelle Garbarino

Paula – by John Kinealy

Randi and her dedicated team – by Ethel Barclay

Suzanne Shannelec, Happy Birthday – by Leslee Sipress

Kobe and Lucy – by The Engnyrs

In Remembrance of

Swami Amazo – by Lynn Montgomery

Bianca (Goldie's favorite kitten) – by Judy Mudfoot and Alver Smith

Blue Bell – by Dr. Bud Stuart

Ida Burnam

Ruth P. Demmes, my mother – by Susan Eselgroth

Gabey (the Baby) – by Veronica Eden

Ivy and Maggie, our dogs – by Joanne and Jim O'Roark

Kali – by Mary Hanson

Pretzel Kolars by – Judy Kolars

Maja & Fulana – by Carolyn Moir

Marj – by Lucia and William Nelson

Molly – by The Engmyrs

Nola Perez, cat lover – by Tori Blunt

Nutmeg and Princess – by Rita Fleming

Nancy O'Connor, my sister – by Margaret Jones

Our cats – by Fred and Nancy Miller

Randy Roberts, who loved his ferals – by Randi T. Fairbrother

Sweet Pea and Quatro – by the Borderres

Sylvia Saxe and Coke-Cat – by Suan Tova

John Tapia, his beloved Gracee – by Irene T. Kasper

Sam and Tom Snow – by Richard V. Salotti and Family

All Stevenson Cats, past and present – by Hal and Susan Stevenson



Lucky Comes Home Again

By Debbie Merry

A few years back *Catalyst* encountered an area where stray and feral cats were being fed. One, a calico mom, was a particular challenge. Litter after litter we tried to trap her, but kept being sabotaged by individuals who did not cooperate, but thought they were helping. She became totally “trap shy” and we never caught her, even after months and many attempts. Sometimes we just have to move on.

One day last summer, though, I heard the business had moved to another site. I decided to start feeding there in the evening to see who and what showed up— in hopes that the calico we tried so hard to trap was still around. Night after night I stopped by and put out fresh food and water. I parked at a distance and watched. Before long a couple of large male cats started coming to eat every night, waiting for me to arrive. These were the only two I ever saw at the feeding site. Unfortunately, no sign of the calico female.

At this point I decided to continue feeding there and eventually TNR'd the two cats. One evening soon after Labor Day I noticed two big eyes staring out from underneath the bush at the corner of the building eagerly watching and waiting.

Someone new had come for dinner. At first he waited until I returned to my car and then ran over to the food, while I watched. He was a large Siamese male with those pretty deep sky-blue eyes—very healthy looking, well-groomed and wearing a collar. I knew he was or had been someone's pet.

It didn't take long before he sat in the open waiting, meowing loudly and coming over to me while I put the food down. I eventually picked him up. I wanted to either find where he belonged or find him a new home. This was no way for a tame cat to live. It's hard enough watching the ferals live this way.

While I was on vacation, another *Catalyst* volunteer snapped his picture. I made flyers with a colored photo and passed them around the neighborhood. I never received any response from over 100 flyers that I passed out.

Then I thought of another avenue to try: the county animal shelter on Foster Rd. I really didn't hold much hope because very few people post or look for their lost cats there. I asked to see the log book of missing cats and there was less than a page, dating from 2008. I noted one entry from July 2012 and another from September 2012, both Siamese. One was wearing a purple collar, but had gone missing from the Tanglewood area, which is quite a way from where I was feeding, but the other had been lost just down the street from my feeding area.

I believed he was going to belong to the people down the street, but when I called her she said her cat had come home.

So it was on to the next number. When I spoke with the woman from Tanglewood it did sound like it was her cat, so we agreed to meet that evening at the feeding site.

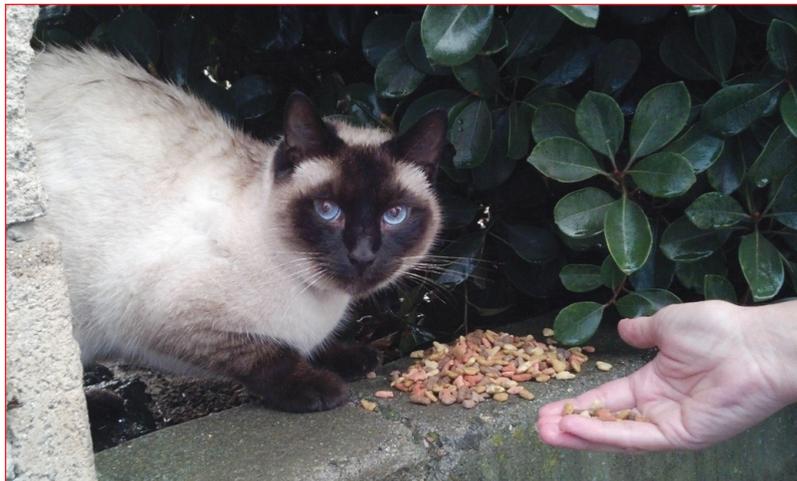
When I drove up, he was eagerly awaiting my arrival. Instead of feeding him I scooped him up, put him in my

car and fed him there. He was a little nervous, eating a only a small amount and roaming all over my car.

All of a sudden I noticed his head lift and his ears perk up as I heard a car drive up. I was pretty sure at that moment this was probably his owner, and he knew the sound of her car.

The lady walked towards us looking at him and calling his name—“Lucky.” Right away she knew this was her dear, sweet lost boy.

We were all three so happy. I could hardly believe this miracle I had just helped work. I feel so fortunate to have found his home and he is indeed a lucky boy.



Fortunate Son: In seeking to trap an unspayed feral calico, the author came upon a tame Siamese sporting a collar. Where did he belong?



Catalyst for Cats, Inc.
Post Office Box 30331
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

**Every litter adds to the problem
Every spay/neuter adds to the solution!**

Help Catalyst for Cats When You Shop Online

Every time a purchase is made through

AdoptAShelter.com

at any one of over 400 top name online stores, 100% of the amount displayed is donated to the animal organization or shelter chosen by the shopper. You can buy just about anything online and earn a donation, all without logging in or remembering a password.

Check us out at www.AdoptAShelter.com

No-hassle donating can now be done using **PayPal** or **credit card** using the Donation Form button on our website. Catalyst is also registered with **Cars for Causes**, also accessible through our website.



Cats come with claws!

Never declaw a cat! Declawing often results in irreversible physical and psychological damage. An excellent scratching post is available from **Felix Company (206) 547-0042**. Ask for their catalog. The **#1** (large) is a good selection.